

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Daniel E. Ford, et al. Examiner: Liang Che A. Wang
Serial No.: 09/779,390 Group Art Unit: 2155
Filed: February 7, 2001 Docket No.: 10007261-1
Title: System and Method for Accessing Software Components on a Distributed Network Environment

REPLY APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 41.41

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Answer mailed July 26, 2007, Appellants file this Reply Brief in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 41.41.

AUTHORIZATION TO DEBIT ACCOUNT

It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Hewlett-Packard Development Company's deposit account no. 08-2025.

Applicants stress that all of the claim elements are not taught in Baratz. Claim 1 recites generating a request for a component in a computer network. The request describes the service performed by the component. By contrast, Baratz does not teach a request that includes a description of services performed by a component. Baratz broadcasts a search request that includes bits identifying a resource type and resource name. This difference is significant. With Applicants' invention (as recited in the claims), components in a network can be discovered based a description of services to be performed by the component, as opposed to a name of a component or a location of a component. Again, Baratz finds components based on the location and/or name of a resource, not a description of the services performed by the resource.

The Examiner argues that Baratz "describes the resources (Col 12 lines 17-23, resource type and name)" (see Examiner's Answer at p. 9). This section in Baratz, however, is not teaching what the claim actually recites. Again, claim 1 recites a request describes the service performed by the component. Describing a service performed by the component is quite different than identifying a resource type and resource name as taught in Baratz. As noted above, Applicants' invention can locate the resource without knowing the resource name or resource location. As recited in the claims, components are discovered based on a description of services performed by the resource.

As another example, claim 1 recites generating a request having an attribute that describes a service performed by the component being requested. This attribute (i.e., having the description of service performed by the component) is compared with attributes of a service provider to identify a matching component. Baratz does not teach these elements.

The Examiner argues that the attribute (i.e., having the description of service performed by the component) of claim 1 is taught in the LOCATE message in Baratz. Applicants respectfully disagree.

In Baratz, nodes exchange the LOCATE message to find a destination resource. The LOCATE message contains variables or data about the name and location of the resource (see col. 12, lines 17-25). Nowhere does Baratz state that the LOCATE message contains an attribute that has a description of the service performed by the component. In other words, the nodes in Baratz are not comparing the attribute recited in claim 1. In

claim 1, the attribute (i.e., having the description of service performed by the component) is compared with attributes of a service provider to identify a matching component.

Baratz does not compare attributes having a description of services performed by the component. Baratz compares data about the name and location of the resource, not descriptions of services.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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